

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1-(currently amended) A locking device ~~11~~ for a screw coupling, said screw coupling comprising a first ~~22~~ and a second ~~44~~ components rotatable in relation to one another during screwing and unscrewing, the first component ~~22~~ comprising a first thread ~~88~~ and a rotating engagement formation ~~111~~ distant from the first thread ~~88~~, the locking device ~~11~~ being mounted on the second component ~~44~~ and comprising:

- a coupling component ~~42~~ for coupling with the engagement formation ~~111~~ ,
- a stop component ~~38~~ connected for common rotation with a body (18) carried by the second component (4) ,
- disconnectable coupling means ~~49, 51~~ between the coupling component ~~42~~ and the stop component ~~38~~ ,

characterized in that the coupling means ~~49, 51~~ are of the type with comprises a ratchet allowing relative rotation in the direction of unscrewing when a torque at least indirectly applied to the first and second components with respect to one another overcomes a predetermined elastic resistance is overcome.

2-(currently amended) The device according to claim 1, characterized in that the coupling means comprise comprises

axially pointing teeth ~~{49, 51}~~ formed on the coupling component ~~{38}~~ and on the stop component ~~{42}~~ , which are urged towards one another by a spring ~~{36}~~ in the direction of teeth interpenetration.

3-(currently amended) The device according to claim 2, characterized in that the ~~two~~ coupling and stop components ~~{38, 42}~~ are axially movable in relation to the body ~~{18}~~ and are ~~together~~ commonly urged by the spring ~~{36}~~ towards a stop ~~{44}~~ provided in the body ~~{18}~~ for the coupling component ~~{42}~~ .

4-(currently amended) The device according to claim 1, characterized in that the coupling component ~~{42}~~ can be drawn back against a spring ~~{36}~~ and comprises a stop ~~{47}~~ for engagement of a shoulder ~~{48}~~ of the first component ~~{2}~~ in order to limit the axial extent by which the coupling component ~~{42}~~ is able to cover the engagement formation ~~{11}~~ .

5-(currently amended) The device according to claim 1, characterized in that the body ~~{18}~~ is formed as a cup enclosing the stop component ~~{38}~~ and partially the coupling component ~~{42}~~ .

6-(currently amended) The device according to claim 1, characterized in that the stop component ~~{38}~~ and the coupling component ~~{42}~~ are mounted around a tube ~~{32}~~ of the second component ~~{4}~~ , which is internally threaded ~~{16}~~ for screwing with the first component ~~{2}~~ .

7-(currently amended) The device according to claim 1, characterized in that the body ~~(18)~~ can be fitted onto a second engagement formation ~~(13)~~ integral with the second component ~~(4)~~ and has its own engagement formation ~~(25)~~ which can be used in place of the second engagement formation ~~(13)~~ in order to carry out the relative rotation of the two first and second components ~~(2, 4)~~ by means of tools.

8-(currently amended) The device according to claim 1, characterized in that the body ~~(18)~~ is secured onto the second component ~~(4)~~ by snap-fit ~~(24, 27)~~.

9-(currently amended) The device according to claim 1, characterized in that the body ~~(18)~~ is secured onto the second component ~~(4)~~ by crimping ~~(29)~~.

10-(currently amended) The device according to claim 1, characterized in that the body ~~(18)~~ is produced in one piece with the second component ~~(4)~~.

11-(currently amended) The device according to claim 1, characterized by being in that the device is adapted to be mounted as a single unit onto the second component.

12-(currently amended) The device according to claim 1, characterized by being entirely mounted on the second component ~~(4)~~.

13-(currently amended) A pipe coupling comprising a first pipe end-portion provided with an external thread and, a second pipe end-portion, a nut which is rotatably mounted on the second

pipe end-portion and can be screwed on the external thread of the first pipe end-portion and rotatably mounted on another pipe end-portion, characterized in that said coupling also comprises, and a locking device according to claim 1 for selectively locking against relative rotation the two components constituted by the nut and the first pipe end-portion provided with an the external thread.

14-(currently amended) The coupling according to claim 13, characterized in that the first component ~~(2)~~ and the other second pipe end-end ~~(3)~~ portions and the nut are standard non-modified components.

15-(currently amended) The device according to claim 2, characterized in that the coupling component ~~(42)~~ can be drawn back against a the spring ~~(36)~~ and comprises a stop ~~(47)~~ for engagement of a shoulder ~~(48)~~ of the first component ~~(2)~~ in order to limit the axial extent by which the coupling component ~~(42)~~ is able to cover the engagement formation ~~(11)~~.